

ANNUAL REPORT 1981/82

HISTORICAL SECTION

Sandra L. Snider - Assoc. Curator

Condition of Buildings:

1. Queen Anne Cottage:

- a. Building exterior was painted by Los Angeles County Mechanical Department this past fiscal year.
- b. Gordon Termite Co. inspected the building one year after treatment and found no new or remaining infestation.
- c. A bid for painting the interior of the Cottage, sanding and varnishing the floors, and oiling the woodwork was received from Anthony Triarsi of Anthony Decorators in Pasadena (\$11,895) and was accepted by the California Arboretum Foundation. Work is projected to begin in August.
- d. Brochures and cost estimates were received from Scalmandre Co. in New York for replacement carpeting for the Music Room and the Parlor in the Cottage. Mid-Victorian Wilton patterns are available in the necessary sizes at approximately \$3,000 each. Funding is to come from Las Voluntarias history monies.
- e. All Cottage draperies are to be cleaned and repaired by Eldon Drapery in Covina with money from Las Voluntairas history fund. Draperies were removed in late July for cleaning.
- f. Funding from Las Voluntarias history monies has been approved for purchase and installation of improved Cottage porch lighting fixtures. Work is projected to begin in August/September.
- g. Vandals destroyed two of the three stained glass windows in the tower of the Cottage in May, 1982. Pasadena Art Glass undertook restoration and replacement of the glass and re-installed the windows in June. Protective acrylic glass was purchased by the Arboretum and installed over the tower stained glass by Arboretum personnel.
- h. Restoration projects still to be accomplished include re-upholstery of the set of parlor furniture in the Cottage and re-wiring of the prisms in the chandeliers in the Study, Bedroom and Parlor.
 - i. Volunteer Milt Murset installed shelving in the Bedroom closet.

2. Coach Barn

- a. Bids were solicited by the California Arboretum Foundation for new roofing for the Barn. Several types of roofing were considered with estimates ranging from \$5,000 to \$33,000. An engineering report was also solicited by the Foundation for purposes of analyzing the strength of the Barn structure. Work on a new wood shingle, fire retardant roof was begun by Virgin Roofing Co. in August.
- b. An estimate was received from Anthony Decorators for spot sanding and varnishing and thorough oiling of the Barn interior panelling, currently in deteriorating condition. Cost would be \$5,600. The project is recommended for attention in the very near future to prevent the pervasive weathering now taking place.
- c. Volunteer Milt Murset constructed wooden horses for display of period saddles in the case adjacent to the Tally Ho.
- d. The old tack room near the east entrance to the Barn was transformed into a Stable Boy's Room (with bed, dresser, bath, etc.) when the saddles were put on permanent display near the Tally Ho.

- e. Projects still to be accomplished in the Barn include:
repair of the torn velvet lining in the Tally Ho; repair of several pieces of farm equipment; restoration and more informative displays of blacksmith shop and farm implement areas.
3. Boathouse: The Baldwin boathouse was destroyed by vandals in 1980 and has not yet been reconstructed. A "movie prop" deck currently obscures the boathouse landing and steps. It is recommended that the deck be removed as soon as possible for both historic authenticity and public safety reasons.
4. Wickiups: Only two of the original four wickiups remain and these two are in extremely poor condition. Unsightly cement "domes" should be removed from the wickiups and tule reeds used to patch the numerous exposed areas of metal framework. As they now stand, the wickiups are an embarrassment to the Arboretum's historical integrity. It is recommended that a long-term solution be the construction of two authentic shelters (with willow pole frames and reed thatch) such as that constructed at the County Museum of Natural History.
5. Hugo Reid Adobe:
 - a. A viewing window in the sala (middle room), shattered by vandals in 1980, was replaced by a better quality plastic and by a stronger frame. Public viewing of the Adobe interior would be greatly enhanced if the kitchen window and frame were similarly replaced.
 - b. Minor roof leaks continue throughout the Adobe during rainy seasons. New roofing will soon be necessary.
 - c. The rain-damaged secretary in the sala needs to be stripped and re-varnished. A glass door, broken by vandals, needs replacement.
 - d. In the courtyard, the iron door to the oven, removed by vandals, still has not been re-attached by County masons.
 - e. It is recommended that an engineering report be solicited regarding the structural soundness of the Adobe. Major cracks in walls, door frames, and foundation continue to appear. In several places, the cement-lined floor is caving in.
6. Santa Anita Depot:
 - a. The exterior wood of the Depot was painted by Los Angeles County Mechanical Dept. this past fiscal year.
 - b. Roof shingles were patched this past rainy season, but holes are again visible above the Baggage Room.
 - c. Interior surfaces will need re-painting in the near future. It has now been 12 years since the original painting.
 - d. A steady drip from the bathroom plumbing is decaying the outside brickwork near the Depot back door.
 - e. The outdoor waiting bench has deteriorated to such an extent that the Arboretum Shop says it is not repairable. A replacement bench is needed.
 - f. Volunteer Milt Murset constructed shelving in the kitchen closet. Milt also installed weather stripping along the Baggage Room doors in an effort to cut down on the dirt blown off the hillside.

Special activities:

1. Field Leader Training: A six-week session in California History was conducted for 18-20 prospective History and Nature field leaders from late September through mid-November. Of this group, ten new History leaders were added to the rolls.
2. Queen Anne Frolic, September 18, 1981: As usual, History volunteers gave the Cottage a thorough cleaning in preparation for the Frolic. History docents and other volunteers offered guided tours through the Cottage (for groups of 10-15 guests) from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m., while the Assoc. Curator conducted special guided tours for tables of Arboretum Benefactors. In addition, a special display of photographs of movie locations using the Arboretum, from 1937 to 1980, was presented in the Coach Barn.
3. Benefactors Dinner, June 1982: The Historical Section provided hostesses dressed in period clothing from the Arboretum collection during the cocktail hour in the Coach Barn. The Barn loft area was opened for benefactors to view special displays and to look at the underpinnings of the new roof they would be funding.
4. Lecture/slide talks: The Assoc. Curator spoke to the Monrovia Historic Houses group July 30, 1981 on the Baldwin Ranch and to Las Voluntarias November 9, 1981 on Mt. Lowe.
5. A list of items on loan to the Historical Section was compiled and registered letters were sent to all owners of loaned items asking that they either donate the items outright or make arrangements for retrieval of the articles. This move was necessitated by questions of Arboretum responsibility for articles not actually owned by the facility. Of the letters sent, 3 replied, 2 were returned marked "deceased," and one went unanswered. Of the 3 replies, only Patricia Warren retrieved her items. Anne Purcell and Dextra Hopper both asked that their items be held for retrieval, but neither has followed through as yet on arrangements to pick up their articles.
6. American Protection Industries burglar alarm system was allowed to lapse (monthly service bills not paid) in July, 1981, because of poor service and lack of response to requests for improvement. The historical buildings have been without burglar alarm protection for a year now, but attempts are being made to either install our own system or contract with a local company for alarm protection.
7. An Historic Preservation Committee of volunteers, headed by Marilyn Llewellyn, was established in January, 1982 with the purpose of providing ongoing cleaning and refurbishing service to the historic buildings. The committee meets once a month (third Monday) at a designated building to undertake specific cleaning projects. To date, accomplishments include cleaning and oiling saddles and tack in the Barn; cleaning Cottage stained glass, marble mantels tiles and woodwork; dusting and vacuuming Depot.
8. The book Arcadia: Where Ranch and City Meet, a photo history of the city of Arcadia from the days of the Baldwin Ranch to the present, was completed by the Assoc. Curator and Arcadia Library research librarian, Pat McAdam, in November 1981 and distributed to purchasers. Several copies were secured for sale in the Arboretum gift shop. Many additional photographs were added to the Historical Section files through this project.

2. Slide collection: We have now re-numbered and fully described over 2,000 slides in our collection and cataloging by subject has begun. All important slides, especially those used in talks, are being duplicated as time and money permit.
3. Anita Baldwin collection: Letters, clippings, documents, photos, etc. have been arranged by subject matter and a subject file is being developed.
4. Historical magazine articles file: pertinent articles continue to be referenced by subject on index cards, though not as extensively as in past years.
5. Decorative arts file: information, descriptions, historical background of various antiques are being collected in a vertical file for reference use.
6. Baldwin Ranch file: Extensive research notes are arranged by topic (horses, winery, family tree, etc.) and stored in Hollinger boxes in the Assoc. Curator's office. Notes in longhand are typed by volunteers and duplicated for inclusion in the file.
7. Arboretum History file: The beginnings of a research and documentation file on significant events in Arboretum history (1947-present) came with the work on an Arboretum chronology this past fiscal year. It is hoped to expand this file with information from Garden magazine, publicity releases, etc.
8. Historic clothing collection: Clothing has been more centrally located in metal closets in the south wing of the Coach Barn loft this past fiscal year. Clothing has been sorted by type and period and work has been progressing on matching existing accession cards and descriptions with items on hand. A separate accessioning system for clothing (in addition to the regular accession numbering) is being set up for greater ease in information retrieval.
9. Accessioning of artifacts: Each of the historic buildings has been inventoried to ascertain which artifacts remain of those represented on accession cards of past years. Missing items are being reconciled with missing cards as all donations are checked against master accession books.
10. Rotunda displays: Every 2 months, or as requested by the Education Dept., an historic display is put in the north Rotunda case. Displays this past fiscal year have included an Arboretum chronology, Santa Anita Depot historical time line, and 2 separate displays of photographs of Arboretum movie locations.
11. Public information: Various requests for historical information are regularly answered via mail and/or telephone.
12. Building maintenance: The historical buildings are inspected by the Assoc. Curator twice a month or as needed. Problems are noted and forwarded to the Superintendent for appropriate action. Light bulbs are changed in the Queen Anne Cottage as needed by and Assoc. Curator (a groundsman is usually asked to do the ceiling-level spot lights).